

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12588

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR PRESIDENT'S TOWN MEETING IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 11355 (C) USBER 1557
(B) USBER 1424

IN REVIEWING REFTELS A AND B, WHICH WERE PREPARED
PRIOR TO THE ABRASIMOV INTERVIEW (REF C) AND A STATE-
MENT LAST WEEK BY HONECKER REPEATING THE GDR POSITION
THAT EAST BERLIN IS THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR, WE SUGGEST

THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.

Q. AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV HAS SAID THAT IT WAS A
VIOLATION OF THE QA FOR CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO BE
PRESENT WHEN QUEEN ELIZABETH VISITED BERLIN. HE
WOULD PRESUMABLY SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOUR VISIT.
WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12588 101758Z

A. IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT I DO NOT SHARE AMBASSADOR
ABRASIMOV'S VIEW. I AM PLEASED TO BE IN BERLIN TODAY TOGETHER
WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER.
THERE IS NO PROHIBITION IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT
OR ELSEWHERE OF THEIR PRESENCE. FURTHERMORE, IT IS
QUITE PROPER FOR FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO ACCOMPANY VISI-
TORS TO WEST BERLIN BOTH BECAUSE OF THE TIES BETWEEN

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND BERLIN AND
BECAUSE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
HAS FOR REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF WEST BERLIN
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

Q. IS EAST BERLIN PART OF THE GDR?

A. THE THREE POWERS HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR, FOR
EXAMPLE IN THE LONDON DECLARATION OF MAY 9, 1977,
THAT EAST BERLIN IS NOT PART OF THE GDR BUT IS PART
OF GREATER BERLIN, WHICH HAS A SPECIAL STATUS UNDER
THE WARTIME AND POST-WAR AGREEMENTS. THESE AGREEMENTS
CANNOT BE ABROGATED UNILATERALLY, AS THE USSR CLAIMS
TO HAVE DONE, AND WERE IN FACT THE BASIS OF AND
CONFIRMED BY THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THE QUADRI-
PARTITE AGREEMENT THUS APPLIES TO ALL OF GREATER
BERLIN.

Q. AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV HAS SAID IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL
FOR GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT
OF THE BUNDESRAT. DO YOU AGREE?

A. NO. DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSORS OF THE GOVERNING
MAYOR HELD THIS OFFICE PRIOR TO QUADRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT AND THE QA DID NOT PROHIBIT THIS PRACTICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 12588 101758Z

THIS IS NOT ONLY PERFECTLY LEGAL BUT IS AN ASPECT
OF THE TIES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TIES WHICH ARE VITAL TO THE
CITY'S WELL-BEING AND WHICH WE FULLY SUPPORT.

Q. WHY DID CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT RETURN TO BONN RATHER
THAN REMAIN TO JOIN YOU IN THIS MEETING?

A. YOU ARE NO DOUBT AWARE OF HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE,
ESPECIALLY WITH THE EC SUMMIT A WEEK AGO AND THE
ECONOMIC SUMMIT BEGINNING TOMORROW. I AM HAPPY
THAT HE WAS ABLE TO SPARE THE TIME HE DID, ESPECIALLY
FOR THE BERLIN PORTION OF MY TRIP. STOESSEL

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